

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-40.

Please add new claims 41-58.

41. (New) A method of establishing a blasting system in which a plurality of detonators are connected in a predetermined sequence which includes the steps of providing at least one marker at least at one location in the sequence whereby at least a first detonator in the sequence is distinguished from at least a second detonator in the sequence, and interrogating the marker to establish information associated with the marker and which is characterized in that the information relates at least to one or more of the following:

- a) a class or category to which the marker belongs;
- b) the type of marker;
- c) a timing period for a detonator;
- d) information relating to a geological feature in an area in which the blasting system is established or used;
- e) information relating to a configuration or pattern of the blasting system;
- f) information relating to a designated feature in the blasting system;
and
- g) information relating to a detonator or a class of detonators.

42. (New) A method according to claim 41 wherein the marker is interrogated from a remote point.

43. (New) A method according to claim 41 which includes the step of forming a graphical representation of at least part of the blasting system using at least part of the information which is associated with the marker.

44. (New) A method according to claim 41 wherein the detonators are connected to a harness and the marker is also connected to the harness.

45. (New) A method according to claim 41 wherein the location is selected from a physical location in an area in which the detonators are used and a notional location at which the marker is used to identify or distinguish a detonator or detonators in the sequence.

46. (New) A method according to claim 41 which includes the step of configuring the at least first detonator differently from the at least second detonator.

47. (New) A method according to claim 46 which includes the step of initiating the at least first detonator differently from the at least second detonator or the remaining detonators.

48. (New) A method according to claim 46 which includes the step of assigning a time delay to the at least first detonator which differs from a time delay assigned to the at least second detonator.

49. (New) A method according to claim 41 wherein the at least first detonator is distinguished from the second detonator on the basis that the first detonator is associated with a change in a physical pattern or layout in the blasting system.

50. (New) A method according to claim 49 wherein the change in the physical pattern or layout is selected from a transition between a main line and a branch line and a boundary between one group of detonators and another group of detonators.

51. (New) A method according to claim 41 wherein the at least first detonator is distinguished from the at least second detonator on the basis that the first detonator is associated with a geological feature in rock or terrain in which the blasting system is established, or with an end of a detonator string.

52. (New) A method according to claim 41 wherein the sequence of detonators extends over at least two zones in which different types of blasting control are to be exercised and wherein the detonators in each zone are initiated in a respective manner which takes account of the characteristics in, and the requirements of, that zone.

53. (New) A method according to claim 52 wherein each zone is demarcated, in the blasting sequence, by indicating or marking at least two locations which are spaced from each other in the detonator sequence.

54. (New) A method according to claim 53 wherein the detonator sequence is configured so that the zones follow one another successively in a geographical sense.

55. (New) A method according to claim 53 wherein the detonator sequence is configured so that at least one zone extends, in the form of a branch line of detonators, from a main line of detonators.

56. (New) A method according to claim 41 wherein the indicated location designates a transition in the detonator sequence wherein detonators after the location are arranged in two or more zones which extend, from the location, independently of each other.

57. (New) A method according to claim 41 which includes the steps of providing first and second markers which respectively designate a start and an end of a branch line which incorporates at least one detonator, a first connector for connection to an incoming line, a second connector for connection to an outgoing line, and a third connector for connection to the branch line, and of effecting electrical connections between designated conductors in the respective lines, the markers and the connectors.

58. (New) A method according to claim 41 which includes the steps of providing first, second and third markers arranged so that the first and second markers respectively designate a start and an end of a first line which incorporates a first row of detonators, and so that the second and third markers designate a start and an end of a second line which incorporates a second row of detonators; a first connector for connection to an incoming line; a second connector for connection to an outgoing line, a third connector for connection to the first line; and a fourth connector for connection to the second line; and of effecting electrical connections between designated conductors in the respective lines, the markers and the connectors.